

Message Text

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SU: PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO AMBASSADOR SMITH
FROM GOVERNMENT OF THE IVORY COAST

1. AT A DINNER HOSTED BY IVORY COAST FOREIGN MINISTER USHER ON WEDNESDAY EVEING, JULY 28, IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS. SMITH, AND ATTENDED BY SENIOR IVORIAN OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS, THE AMBASSADOR WAS PRESENTED WITHA DECORATION MAKING HIM A "GRAND OFFICIER DE L'ORDRE NATIONALE DE LA COTE D'IVOIRE." THE RANK OF GRAND OFFICER OF THE ORDER IS ONE HELD BY FEW IVORIANS AND IS THE HIGHEST DECORATION GIVEN TO PERSONS WHO ARE NOT IVORIAN NATIONALS.

2. IN A WARM AND TOUCHING SPEECH LEADING UP TO THE PRESENTATION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID: "YOU AND MRS. SMITH HAVE COME TO KNOW IN THE COURSE OF YOUR STAY HER--TOO BRIEF IN OR VIEW--AS MUCH THROUGH YOUR FREIDSHIPS IN ABIDJAN AS THROUGH THE NUMEROUS CONTACTS WHICH YOU HAVE MADE DIRECTLY DURING YOUR TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR OF OUR COUNTRY, THAT THE IVORIANS HAVE A REAL ADMIRATION FOR YOUR GREAT COUNTRY. FOR US, AYOUNG COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN IS, IN EFFECT, THE SYMBOL OF TECHNICAL SUCCESS, AN ELOQUENT EXAMPLE OF THAT WHICH THE HUMAN SPIRIT CAN ACHIEVE IN PUTTING SCIENCE AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY, THAT IS TO SAY, FOR THE WELL BEING OF MANKIND." HE CONTINUED, "WE CONGRATULATE OURSELVES, MR. AMBASSADOR, FOR COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR. THIS COOPERATION HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN THESE LAST YEARS

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BY THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUR COUNTRY IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF

CERTAIN OF OUR LARGE INDUSTRIALIZATION PROJECTS AND BY APPRECIABLE FINANCIAL AID."

3. MINISTER USHER TOOK NOTE OF THE RECENT TRIPS IN AFRICA UNDERTAKEN BY SENIOR POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS OF THE USA AND HOPED "THAT THEY WOULD RESULT NOT ONLY IN A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR. BUT IN THE RAPID ACCELERATION OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THESE PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO THE CONFUSION WHICH REIGNS IN THIS PART OF OUR CONTINENT. CONFUSION TO WHICH FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN RECENT MONTHS IS NOT UNKNOWN."

4. IN HIS ANSWERING REMARKS, HE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THE PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS, CITING INCREASES OF 125 PER CENT IN AMERICAN INVESTMENT, 45 PER CENT IN COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE IVORY COAST AND THE UNITED STATES AND 50 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN FIRMS ESTABLISHING OFFICES IN ABIDJAN.

5. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CITED AMERICAN CULTURAL EVENTS SUCH AS CONCERTS AND EXPOSITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD HERE AND STRESSED PARTICULARLY THE ARRANGMENT OF TRIPS TO THE U.S. OF NUMEROUS SENIOR IVORIAN GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONARIES AND OTHER OFFICIALS. HE STATED HIS PRIDE IN THE GROWTH OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE IVORY COAST, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. HE ADDED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE USG ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ENDED BY CONGRATULATING THE AMBASSADOR MRS. SMITH THAT THEIR STAY IN THE COUNTRY "EVEN THOUGH SHORT, HAS BEEN WELL FULFILLED."
SMITH

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